(v) R & D Management Support (Rs. 80 crore)

(vi) Infrastructure Renovation and Refurbishment (Rs. 200 crore).

Prediction of earthquake

3854. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the people in Ahmedabad are still experiencing tremors of earthquake;

(b) whether State Government has taken any steps to know about the earthquake in advance; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT) : (a) Yes, Sir. The aftershock activity of Bhuj earthquake of 26th January, 2001 is still continuing. On an average 6-7 aftershocks of magnitude of 3.0 and above have been recorded per month by the National Seismological network during the last 6 months.

(b) and (c) At present there is no scientific technique available anywhere in the world to forecast earthquakes with reasonable degree of accuracy in terms of magnitude, time and space.

Funds for Science and Technology

3855. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the fund allocation made in the budget for the Ministry of Science and Technology is sufficient considering the ground realities; and

(b) the action proposed to find more money for Science and Technology for quality achievement and imbibing a scientific temper ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT) : (a) and (b) An allocation of Rs. 1,570/- crores has been made for the Ministry of Science and Technology during the current financial year 2003-04. To keep pace with the new and emerging areas of research and development, substantial funds are required. However, the Ministry has prioritized programmes and schemes so that important areas of